

Kansas Arts Commission

**For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 31, 2011**

Arts Commissioners Testify on License Plate Program

Topeka - Members of the Kansas Arts Commission provided testimony today to the House Standing Committee on Education Budget regarding the "State of the Arts" license plate program and the proposed merger of the Kansas Arts Commission and the Kansas Film Commission.

"The Commission remains committed to supporting the arts in Kansas and has been proactive in pursuing alternative sources of funding by substituting innovative revenue sources, such as private donations and the license plate program, instead of consuming taxpayer money," said Arts Commission Vice Chairman Kathy Herzog. "The Arts Commission has prioritized programming to meet the needs of arts organizations in a consistent and cost-effective manner."

"The commission has obtained and organized office space and has re-energized the 'State of the Arts' license plate program with a \$20,000 grant from the Kansas Arts Foundation," said Commissioner David Lindstrom.

Proceeds from this program will be directed to the operational support of local Kansas arts programs. With 500 commitments required to initiate the program, Commissioners and arts supporters are working to meet that goal. To view a sample of the license plate, or to express interest in purchasing a license plate, email kaclpp@ks.gov.

"Ongoing financial support can be provided using license plate program, and organizations that depend on such funding have generally been successful in the past," said Commissioner Lindstrom

In addition to the License Plate Program, Commissioner Herzog testified about the value of reorganizing the Art and Film Commissions.

"Combining the Arts Commission and the Film Commission would benefit both. The merger between the two commissions would provide additional staffing for volunteer oversight, project management and clerical work of the commission," said Commissioner Herzog. "We have received encouragement from artists who feel that merging the two commissions could result in valuable cross-pollination of projects and enhance the affinity between film and other art forms"

The Arts Commission will continue its discussions with arts organizations, artists and supporters to create and implement a plan moving forward.